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Spotlight offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. Views expressed in the articles cited are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

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ENERGY

Pipe Dreams: the Question of Clean Coal by Christine MacDonald. *E Magazine*. September/October 2009.

Often referred to as "Carbon Capture and Storage" technology, or CCS, clean coal has been widely heralded as a potential bridge that could tide humanity over until renewable energies mature. With CCS, the carbon would be siphoned off at the time the electricity is generated, compressed into liquid form, then transported, probably via pipelines, for storage underground in abandoned oil and gas fields or on sea beds.

ARTICLE 778

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation for Refrigerated Bottled or Canned Beverage Vending Machines. U.S. Department of Energy. August 31, 2009.

The average energy use of the most common new cold beverage vending machines would be cut by about 42% according to the new national minimum standards. The move fulfills President Obama's February 5th pledge to complete five new efficiency standards by August. Energy efficiency and environmental groups lauded the new standards and DOE's prompt fulfillment of the President's commitment while lamenting the lack of energy-saving smart controls for vending machines that could have achieved even larger savings.

ARTICLE 779

U.S. Energy Policy: Overcoming barriers to action by Max H. Bazerman. Environment Magazine. Sept/Oct 2009.

The issue of global climate change was identified decades ago. In fact, it was first noted in the media in the 1930s, when a prolonged period of warm weather demanded explanation, yet interest in the matter disappeared as cooler temperatures returned. For the past decade, most experts have accepted climate change as a fact, making the issue difficult to ignore—yet many politicians, and the voters who elect them, have done exactly that.

OPEC Oil Export Revenues. Energy Information Administration. September 2009.

Based on projections from the EIA September 2009, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$559 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$675 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$971 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$288 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earnings reached \$2,688 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007.

ARTICLE 780

Who is in the Oil Futures Market and how has it Changed? By Kenneth B. Medlock III. *James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy*. August 26, 2009.

The study shows an investigation of the composition of traders in the oil futures market and how this composition has changed in recent.

ARTICLE 781

A Bridge to Renewable Energy by Robert U. Ayres and Ed Ayres. Worldwatch Institute.

Renewables are coming fast. In the meantime, here's a largely overlooked but potent way to minimize fossil fuel use and the damage it causes.

Improving the energy Performance of Buildings: Learning from the European Union and Australia by Charles P. Ries et al. *RAND Corporation*. September 20, 2009.

The study shows the review of recent European and Australian experience in the design and implementation of policies to improve energy efficiency of buildings and insights to aid U.S. designers of analogous policies.

ARTICLE 782

Coal Ash Reports. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. September 16, 2009.

Final contractor reports assessing the structural integrity of 17 impoundments and similar management units containing coal combustion residuals, commonly referred to as coal ash, at nine facilities. These 17 impoundments have a "high" or "significant" hazard potential rating. A high hazard potential rating is not related to stability, but to the potential for harm should the impoundment fail. A significant hazard potential rating means impoundment failure can cause economic loss, or damage to the environment and infrastructure.

ARTICLE 783

Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources: 2002-2008. *Environmental Law Institute*. Sept. 2009.

The largest U.S subsidies to fossil fuels are attributed to tax breaks that aid foreign oil production, according to the research. The study, which reviewed fossil fuel and energy subsidies for Fiscal Years 2002-2008, reveals that the lion's share of energy subsidies supported energy sources that emit high levels of greenhouse gases.

ARTICLE 784

Oil - the long goodbye; It's still the one by Daniel Yergin. Foreign Policy. Sept/Oct 2009.

Oil's very future is now being seriously questioned, debated, and challenged. The author of an acclaimed history explains why, just as we need more oil than ever, it is changing faster than we can keep up with.

EDUCATION

A Global Fund for Education: Achieving Education for All by David Gartner. *Brookings Institution*. August 31, 2009.

In order to realize the world's commitment to ensuring education for all by 2015, important innovations and reforms will be needed in the governance and financing of global education. In 2008, Presidential Candidate Barack Obama committed to making sure that every child has the chance to learn by creating a Global Fund for Education. A new Global Fund for Education should be an independent and inclusive multi-stakeholder institution that builds upon existing institutions and supports country-driven solutions, says the report.

ARTICLE 785

Alternative Certification Programs: Meeting the Demand for Effective Teachers. National Center for Policy Analysis. Rebecca Garcia and Jessica Huseman. September 1, 2009.

Growing public school enrollment, an increase in the number of teachers retiring or leaving the profession and legislated limits on class size have made finding competent educators a growing challenge. In recent years, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have established alternative certification programs to help meet this challenge. The brief looks at the success rates.

ARTICLE 786

The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate High Schools. Alliance for Excellent Education. Web posted September 1, 2009.

If the high school students who dropped out of the Class of 2009 had graduated, the nation's economy would have benefited from nearly \$335 billion in additional income over the course of their lifetimes, according to the brief. Not only do high school dropouts earn less when they are employed, they are much more likely to be unemployed during the current economic recession, the brief finds.

ARTICLE 787

Education at a Glance 2009: OECD Indicators. OECD. September 8, 2009.

Across OECD countries, governments are seeking policies to make education more effective while searching for additional resources to meet the increasing demand for education. The report enables countries to see themselves in the light of other countries' performance. It provides a comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally.

ARTICLE 788

School Safety in Wasington, D.C.: New Data for the 2007-08 School Year by David Muhlhausen et al. *The Heritage Foundation*. September 10, 1009.

To help policymakers and the public understand the issue of school safety in D.C. schools, the report uses 911 tape data of calls for crime and emergency incidents at the addresses of D.C. schools. The data presented in the report are limited to crime-related incidents reported to the MPD during the 2007-2008 school year.

ARTICLE 789

Academic Medical Centers: the Tipping Point. Deloitte. September 2009.

Academic Medical Centers (AMCs) are at a tipping point, according to the report. While driven to serve their tripartite mission of teaching, research and patient care, they are susceptible to myriad pressures that endanger their long-term viability.

ARTICLE 790

AGRICULTURE

What the 2008/2009 World Economic Crisis Means for Global Agricultural Trade by May Peters et al. U.S. Department of *Agriculture*. August 20, 2009.

The global economic crisis that started in late 2008 has led to a sharp curtailment of international trade, including a short-term decline in the value of global agricultural trade of around 20%. After slowing, global agricultural trade will continue to grow in the future. The crisis is leading to a realignment of exchange rates, and the ultimate resolution of the crisis will depend on adjustments in the exchange value of the U.S. dollar.

ARTICLE 791

World Investment Report: Transnational Corporations, Agriculture Production and Development. *United Nations*. September 2009.

How have foreign direct investment (FDI) flows reacted to the current financial and economic crisis? How do traditional and new foreign investors – transnational corporations (TNCs) – affect agriculture, the basis of livelihood in many developing countries? These are two major issues analyzed in detail in World Investment Report 2009 (WIR09), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's 19th annual report on FDI and TNCs.

ARTICLE 792

The Economics of Agricultural and Wildlife Smuggling by Peyton Ferrier. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. September 16, 2009.

The U.S. bans imports of certain agricultural and wildlife goods that can carry pathogens or diseases or whose harvest can threaten wildlife stocks. Despite bans, contraband is regularly uncovered in inspections of domestic markets. This study characterizes the economic factors affecting agricultural and wildlife smuggling by drawing on inspection and interdiction data from USDA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and existing economic literature.

ARTICLE 793

Agricultural Land Tenure and Carbon Offsets by Roger Claassen and Mitch Morehart. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. September 23, 2009.

The report examines the potential role that land ownership might play in determining the agricultural sector's involvement in carbon sequestration programs. By estimating the carbon sequestration potential of agricultural producers who own most of the land they operate, this report finds that land ownership should not be a constraining factor in agriculture's ability to provide carbon offsets.

ARTICLE 794

Biotech's Plans to Sustain Agriculture. Scientific American. October 2009.

Popular movements may call for more organic methods, but the agricultural industry sees biotechnology as a crucial part of farming's future.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

U.S. Actions to Counter Piracy off the Horn of Africa. U.S. Department of State. Sept. 1, 2009.

The United States Government, in concert with the American maritime industry and other concerned nations and international organizations, continues to work to prevent pirates operating in the waters off of the Horn of Africa from interfering with maritime commerce, endangering mariners, hindering the provision of humanitarian aid to East Africa, and further destabilizing this troubled region.

ARTICLE 795

Eight Years On: A Diplomat's Perspective on the Post-9/11 World by Ryan Crocker. Newsweek. Sept.14, 2009.

Will Japan Finally get a Cabinet that Makes Policy? By Karel van Wolferen. YaleGlobal. September 10, 2009.

For all of Japan's economic prowess and impact on the rest of the world, in one area the country has remained relatively diffident: foreign policy. While reasons for such a stance lie in Japanese public opinion, an important factor is Japan's status as a virtual protectorate of the U.S. In the past, Japan rarely rocked the boat when it came to U.S. geopolitical and strategic goals, creating a situation where the world's second largest industrial power seemed non-existent on the world stage, according to the author.

ARTICLE 796

The Role of the U.N. General Assembly by Rebecca Bloom and Lauren Vriens. *Council on Foreign Relations*. September 17, 2009.

At the 2009 UN General Assembly, the world's deliberative body opens its sixty-fourth annual session. UN reform, the international financial situation, disarmament, and diseases will likely loom large.

ARTICLE 797

Obama Addresses More Popular U.N. by Richard Wike. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Sept. 2009.

In recent years, the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly has frequently produced controversy. But controversies aside, the United Nations remains a quite popular institution throughout much of the world. Indeed, its image has improved in many nations over the last couple of years. This is especially true in the United States, where attitudes toward the U.N. are more positive than they have been since early in this decade.

ARTICLE 798

Country analysis Brief: Australia. Energy Information Administration. September 2009.

Australia has significant petroleum, natural gas and coal reserves and is one of the few countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that is a significant net hydrocarbon exporter,

exporting about two-thirds of its total energy production. Australia is the world's largest coal exporter and the fifth largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2007, after Qatar, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Algeria. Australia's prospects for expanding these energy exports in the future are promising as Asian demand for both coal and LNG is rising. While Australia also exports crude oil and refined petroleum products, it is a net importer of oil. **ARTICLE 799**

China's Arrival: a Strategic Framework for a Global Relationship by Linton Brooks et al. *Center for a New American Security*. September 22, 2009.

According to the report, China's rise is one of the most significant geopolitical events in modern history, with important ramifications for U.S. interests, regional power balances, and the international order. As the Obama administration confronts a broad set of worldwide challenges, questions remain as to how the United States should engage China amidst uncertainty about its long-term intentions and how to balance this important relationship against concerns regarding China's behavior in the international community.

ARTICLE 800

Department of State: Additional Steps Needed to Address Continuing Staffing and Experience Gaps at Hardship Posts. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 17, 2009.

The Department of State (State) has designated about two-thirds of its 268 overseas posts as hardship posts. GAO recommends the Secretary of State (1) take steps to minimize the experience gap at hardship posts by making the assignment of experienced officers to such posts an explicit priority consideration, and (2) develop and implement a plan to evaluate incentives for hardship post assignments. State generally agreed with our findings and recommendations.

ARTICLE 801

Here be dragons by Aaron L. Friedberg and Robert S. Ross. The National Interest. September 25, 2009.

China's military is growing ever larger and may soon unseat us as hegemon of the Pacific. But does Beijing really harbor fantasies of world domination?

Country analysis Brief: Australia. Energy Information Administration. September 2009.

Australia has significant petroleum, natural gas and coal reserves and is one of the few countries belonging to the OECD that is a net hydrocarbon exporter, exporting about two thirds of its energy production. Australia is the world's largest coal exporter and the 5th largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2007. Australia's prospects for expanding these energy exports in the future are promising as Asian demand is rising.

ARTICLE 802

Challenges for China at Sixty: Part I by Pranab Bardnan. YaleGlobal. September 25, 2009.

China is in many ways a land of contradictions, confounding outside observers. And such contradictions are nowhere more obvious than in China's economy: a market-driven allocation of resources overseen by the Communist Party. But as Berkeley Economics Professor Pranab Bardhan notes, the contradictions lie at an even deeper level. Though Chairman Mao believed that contradictions were the nature of society, it is doubtful he would have imagined all the contradictions that obtain in China's society today, according to the author.

Part II

United Nations Reform: U.S. Policy and International Perspectives by Luisa Blanchfield. CRS. July 27, 2009.

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has been in a constant state of transition as various international stakeholders seek ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.N. system.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Women and Radicalization in Kyrgyzstan. International Crisis Group. September 3, 2009.

Kyrgyzstan's increasingly authoritarian government is adopting a counter-productive approach to the country's growing radicalization. Instead of tackling the root causes of a phenomenon that has seen increasing numbers, including many women, joining groups such as Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT), it is resorting to heavy-handed police methods that risk pushing yet more Kyrgyz towards radicalism, according to the report.

ARTICLE 803

Crime in the United States 2008 (statistics). Federal Bureau of Investigation. September 2009. press release

Returned to Risk: Deportation on HIV-Positive Migrants. Human Rights Watch. Sept. 23, 2009.

The report describes cases in South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, and the United States in which HIV-positive migrants were deported, and describes the need to develop policies guaranteeing uninterrupted treatment for this population.

ARTICLE 804

Food Insecurity in Households with Children: Prevalence, severity, and Household Characteristics by Mike Nord. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. September 2009.

Eighty-four percent of U.S. households with children were food secure throughout 2007, meaning that they had consistent access to adequate food for active, healthy lives for all household members. Nearly 16 percent of households with children were food insecure sometime during the year, including 8.3 percent in which children were food insecure and 0.8 percent in which one or more children experienced very low food security, the most severe food-insecure condition measured by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ARTICLE 805

The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in Long-Term Human Recovery After Disaster by Anita Chandra and Joie Acosta. *RAND Corporation*. September 23, 2009.

In the four years since Hurricane Katrina, volunteers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in supporting community efforts to recover and rebuild from the devastation in the Gulf States region. The period also provides a case study of the complex process of human recovery and the resource and policy constraints on NGO involvement in these efforts.

ARTICLE 806

"Who Will Tell me What Happened to my Son?" Human Rights Watch. September 27, 2009.

For the victims and relatives of victims who have won cases from Chechnya at the European Court, victory has been mixed. While the applicants have received from the Russian government the financial compensation awarded in the court's judgment, they continue to strive for justice for the crimes they and their loved ones have suffered and for knowledge about the fate of their killed or missing relatives, according to the report.

ARTICLE 807

FEMA Disaster Housing: From Sheltering to Permanent Housing by Francis X. McCarthy. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. September 16, 2009.

For over three decades the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided temporary housing to victims of natural disasters. FEMA has responded to more than 1,000 disaster and emergency events over this period, employing a number of options for meeting the needs of people who have lost their primary housing as a result of a disaster. The cycle of help from sheltering provided by local organizations in the immediate aftermath, to the eventual repair and rebuilding or replacement of private homes and rental units, is the focus of the report.

ARTICLE 808

Protect children, Not guns 2009. Children's Defense Fund. September 23, 2009.

The report finds an increase in firearm deaths among children and teens for the second year in a row, after a decade of decline prior to 2005. Using the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDF's report shows that 3,184 children and teens were killed by firearms in 2006, a 6% increase from 2005.

ARTICLE 809

DEFENSE & SECURITY

Department of Defense Contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan: Background and Analysis by Moshe Schwartz. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* August 2009.

The Department of Defense (DOD) increasingly relies upon contractors to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some analysts believe that poor contract management has also played a role in abuses and crimes committed by certain contractors against local nationals, which likely has undermined U.S. counterinsurgency efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The report reviews steps Congress has taken to exercise oversight over DOD contracting, including contracting issues that have been the focus of hearings and legislation.

ARTICLE 810

Accelerated Vehicle Retirement for Economy: "Cash for Clunkers" by Brent D. Yacobucci and Bill Canis. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. August 2009.

In an attempt to boost sagging U.S. auto sales and to promote higher vehicle fuel economy, the President signed legislation on June 24, 2009–P.L. 111-32–establishing a program to provide rebates to prospective purchasers toward the purchase of new, fuel-efficient vehicles, provided the trade-in vehicles are scrapped. The report outlines the key provisions of the CARS program, discusses the initial impact of the program and some of the concerns raised by Senators. It also summarizes similar programs in other countries.

ARTICLE 811

Securing the Border from Invasives: Robust Inspections Under Severe Uncertainty by L. Joe Moffitt et al. *Department of Resource Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst*. August 2009.

Two important features of agricultural quarantine inspections of shipping containers for invasive species at U.S. ports of entry are the general absence of economic considerations and the severe uncertainty that surrounds invasive

species introductions, says the study. The study proposes and illustrates a method for determining an inspection monitoring protocol that addresses both issues.

ARTICLE 812

Preventing Violent Conflict: Assessing Progress, Meeting Challenges by Lawrence Woocher. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. September 2009.

The report examines the current status of conflict prevention as an international norm and the level of political commitment by world powers. The author finds it is not enough to merely prevent a relapse of war; the international community must make a greater effort to respond to warning signs to preempt violence.

ARTICLE 813

Fact Sheet on U.S. Missile Defense Policy: a "Phased, adaptive Approach" for Missile Defense in Europe. *The White House.* September 17, 2009.

President Obama has approved the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff for a phased, adaptive approach for missile defense in Europe. The approach is based on an assessment of the Iranian missile threat, and a commitment to deploy technology that is proven, cost-effective, and adaptable to an evolving security environment.

ARTICLE 814

Remarks by the President at the U.N. Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. The White House. September 24, 2009.

The President Obama makes statement on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament at the United Nations Headquarters.

ARTICLE 815

Defense Contracting Integrity. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 22, 2009.

Until recently, ethics programs and practices of defense contractors were self-policed. Given the significant sums spent to acquire goods and services, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) was amended twice starting in December 2007 to first mandate and later amplify contractor ethics program rules. GAO recommends actions aimed at improving oversight of ethics programs.

ARTICLE 816

Military Recruitment on High School and College Campuses: a Policy and Legal Analysis by David F. Burrelli and Jody Feder. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. Sept. 22, 2009.

In recent years, many academic institutions have enacted rules that protect individuals who are gay from discrimination on campus. As a result, some high schools and institutions of higher education have sought to bar military recruiters from their campuses and/or to eliminate Reserve Officer Training Corps programs on campus. These efforts, however, have largely been thwarted due to several laws that bar giving federal funds to campuses that block access for military recruiters.

ARTICLE 817

Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements by Matthew Fuhrmann. *International Security.* Summer 2009.

This article examines the relationship between peaceful nuclear cooperation and nuclear weapons proliferation. It explores whether countries receiving civilian nuclear aid over time are more likely to initiate weapons programs and build the bomb.

ARTICLE 818

US Nuclear Policy: The Open Window for Transformation by Joseph Cirincione. *Harvard International Review*. Spring 2009.

It is often said that the world is at a nuclear tipping point. By this, analysts mean that the policy choices we make over the next few years may determine if we tip over into nuclear catastrophe or pull back from the various brinks on which we now teeter.

ARTICLE 819

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers: Violations of Employment and Labor Laws in America's Cities by Annette Bernhardt et al. *National Employment Law Project*. September 2009.

The report exposes a world of work in which the core protections that many Americans take for granted: the right to be paid at least the minimum wage, be paid for overtime hours, take meal breaks, access workers' compensation when injured, and advocate for better working conditions, are failing significant numbers of workers. According to the report, the sheer breadth of the problem, spanning key industries in the economy, as well as its profound impact on workers, entailing significant economic hardship, demands urgent attention.

ARTICLE 820

<u>Fractures in the Foundation: the Latino Worker's Experience in an Era of Declining Job Quality</u>. *National Council of La Raza*. September 1, 2009.

Latino workers are the most likely to pay for violations of basic labor laws with their lives, according to the report. The report calls attention to the Latino occupational fatality rate, which is the highest of any demographic group.

Recession Turns a Graying Office Grayer. Pew Research Center. September 3, 2009.

Older adults are staying in the labor force longer, and younger adults are staying out of it longer. Both trends took shape about two decades ago, have intensified during the current recession, and both are expected to continue after the economy recovers. According to one government estimate, 93% of the growth in the U.S. labor force from 2006 to 2016 will be among workers ages 55+.

ARTICLE 821

Looking Inside the Perpetual-Motion Machine: Job and Worker Flows in OECD Countries. *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*. September 15, 2009.

In the economic literature there is an increasing interest in the process of job creation and destruction as well of hirings and separations. Many studies suggest that idiosyncratic firm-level characteristics shape both job and worker flows in a similar way in all countries. Others argue that cross-country differences in terms of gross job flows are minor. The paper uses cross-country comparable data on both job and worker flows to examine key determinants of these flows and of their cross-country differences.

ARTICLE 822

Annual Report on the Federal Work Force. U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. September 2009.

he Equal Employment Opportunity Commission annual report shows small increases in discrimination complaint filings against federal agencies and in average complaint processing time government-wide.

ARTICLE 823

More Budget Belt-Tightening Means More Job Losses for States by Matt Sherman. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. September 2009.

The paper looks at the problem of state budget shortfalls during the recession and calculates the number of jobs that would be lost if states utilize pro-cyclical spending cuts in an attempt to balance their budgets.

ARTICLE 824

Rising Senior Unemployment and the Need to Work at Older Ages by David F. Burrelli and Jody Feder. *Urban Institute*. September 28, 2009.

Unemployment rates for older workers reached record levels in 2009, partly because fewer workers eligible for early retirement benefits are leaving the labor force. Growing concerns about the adequacy of retirement savings and whether retirees will have enough money to live comfortably in later life appear to have discouraged early retirement. The need for older adults to keep working raises the imperative for new policies that help address the special challenges that older job seekers face.

ARTICLE 825

Overlooked and Undeserved: the Crisis Facing America's Older Workers. Experience Works. September 2009.

The study of more than 2,000 low-income unemployed workers age 55+, 46% need to find jobs so they don't lose their homes or apartments, and 49% have been looking for work for more than a year. In July 2009, there were two million unemployed workers age 55+ the unemployment rate for this age group was the highest since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tabulating data by age in 1948.

ARTICLE 826

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Congressional Favorability at 24-year Low. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 2, 2009.

Americans are extremely displeased with Congress, and there are already some signs that this could take a toll on the Democrats in the 2010 midterm elections. Currently, 37% express a favorable opinion of Congress, while 52% hold an unfavorable view. Positive opinions of Congress have declined by 13 points since April and are now at one of their lowest points in more than two decades of Pew Research Center surveys.

ARTICLE 827

FEMA's Sourcing for Disaster Response Goods & Services. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. August 2009.

When disaster strikes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must be prepared to quickly provide goods and services to help state and local governments respond. Operational procedures that guide FEMA's disaster response call for a single-point ordering concept to provide goods and services efficiently and effectively. However,

implementation of this concept has been limited owing to existing stovepipes, overreliance on the existing sourcing process, and poor integration of information technology systems, according to the report.

ARTICLE 828

Competition in Federal Contracting: an Overview of the Legal Requirements by Kate M. Manuel. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. August 20, 2009.

The report describes the legal requirements pertaining to competition that presently apply to federal procurement contracts.

ARTICLE 829

Access to Government Information in the United States by Wendy R. Ginsberg. *Congressional Research Service*. Updated August 31, 2009. <u>Summary</u>

This report offers an overview of the four information access laws noted below, and provides citations to additional resources related to these tools; the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and the Government in the Sunshine Act.

ARTICLE 830

GovPulse – search the *Federal Register* (note: GovPulse is a non-government website)

<u>Data Masher</u> ""How do the states compare? Mash up some government data to find out! ... Users can combine different data sets in interesting ways and create their own custom rankings of the states."

Bringing Elections into the 21st Century: Voter registration Modernization. *Pew Center on the States*. Web posted September 2009.

America's current voter registration system is outdated, costly and inaccurate, according to the report. The report estimates that more than two million voters were unable to cast a ballot in the 2008 general election due to registration problems. It reviews the underperformance of the current voter registration system and recommends a 21st century, data-driven registration system.

ARTICLE 831

Democracy Assistance: U.S. Agencies Take Steps to Coordinate International Programs but Lack Information on Some U.S.-Funded Activities. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 28, 2009.

In fiscal years 2006- 2008, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which has primary responsibility for promoting democracy abroad, implemented democracy assistance projects in about 90 countries. GAO analyzed U.S. funding and evaluation documents, interviewed USAID, State, and NED officials in the United States and abroad, and reviewed specific democracy projects in 10 countries.

ARTICLE 832

Advancing the National Park Idea. U.S. Department of Interior. September 2009.

The report conveys the message that the National Park System is at a crossroads, facing challenges such as urgent environmental problems, a burgeoning population and critical needs in education. It calls for a new vision recognizing the interrelationships between human beings and the natural world and the need for a sustainable relationship between people and the planet.

ARTICLE 833

HEALTH

Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity by Lynn Parker et al. *Institute of Medicine and National Research Council*. September 1, 2009.

In the U.S., 16.3% of children and adolescents between the ages of two and 19 are obese. The prevalence of obesity is so high that it may reduce the life expectancy of today's generation of children and diminish the overall quality of their lives. Local governments can play a crucial role in creating environments that make it easier for children to eat healthy diets and move more, according to the report. It presents a menu of recommended action steps for local government officials to consider in their efforts to prevent childhood obesity in their community.

ARTICLE 834

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global Health Programs: FY2001-2010 by Tiaji Salaam-Blyther. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* August 21, 2009.

U.S. global health assistance is not always coordinated. Exceptions to this include international responses to key infectious diseases. For example, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the President's Malaria Initiative, and the Avian Flu Task Force. Although several U.S. agencies and departments implement global health programs, the report focuses on funding for global health programs conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a key recipient of U.S. global health funding.

ARTICLE 835

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S.: 2008 by Carmen DeNavas-Walt et al. Bureau of the *Census*. September 10, 2009.

The Census Bureau reports that real median household income in the U.S. fell 3.6% between 2007 and 2008. This breaks a string of 3 years of annual income increases and coincides with the recession that started in December 2007. The nation's poverty rate in 2008 was 13.2%, up from 12.5% in 2007. There were 39.8 million people in poverty in 2008, up from 37.3 million in 2007. Meanwhile, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 45.7 million in 2007 to 46.3 million in 2008, while the percentage remained unchanged at 15.4%.

ARTICLE 836

New Tools for Assessing State and Local Capabilities for Countermeasure Delivery by Christopher Nelson et al. *RAND Corporation*. September 10, 2009.

The report describes tools for assessing the readiness of state and local health departments to carry out countermeasure-delivery operations and provides an approach for measuring development for public health emergency preparedness that can be applied more broadly.

ARTICLE 837

The Obama Plan: Stability & Security for All Americans. The White House. September 2009.

"It will provide more security and stability to those who have health insurance. It will provide insurance to those who don't. And it will lower the cost of health care for our families, our businesses, and our government," says President Obama.

ARTICLE 838

Schizophrenia. National Institute of Mental Health. September 2009.

Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorder that has affected people throughout history. About 1% of Americans have this illness. Treatment helps relieve many symptoms of schizophrenia, but most people who have the disorder cope with symptoms throughout their lives. However, many people with schizophrenia can lead rewarding and meaningful lives in their communities. Researchers are developing more effective medications and using new tools to understand the causes of schizophrenia.

ARTICLE 839

Updated Interim Recommendations for the use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. September 8, 2009.

The report provides guidance on the use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza including 2009 H1N1 influenza infection and seasonal influenza, and assists clinicians in prioritizing use of antiviral medications for treatment or chemoprophylaxis for patients at higher risk for influenza-related complications.

ARTICLE 840

The State of Health in the American Workforce: Does Having an Effective Workplace Matter? By Kerstin Aumann and Ellen Galinsky. *Families and Work Institute*. September 22, 2009.

In the midst of the most vigorous national health care debate in 15 years, and at a time of heightened economic insecurity, new data on employers show that the health of American workers is trending downward. The report finds that only 28% of employees today report that their overall health is "excellent," down from 34% just six years ago. Perhaps surprisingly, men's overall health has declined more rapidly than women's.

ARTICLE 841

Remarks by the First Lady on What Health Insurance Reform Means for Women and Families. The White House. September 18, 2009.

The First Lady discusses health insurance issues often faced by the women for the families.

Post-Conflict Health Reconstruction: New Foundations for U.S. Policy by Leonard S. Rubenstein. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. September 24, 2009.

The report examines how improving health systems in post-conflict countries can help promote peace and prevent renewed violence in those nations, and the implications of health reconstruction for U.S. policy. Rubenstein looks at the impact of armed conflict on health indicators in various hotspots around the world, and the underlying connection between health and U.S. policy towards countries in and emerging from conflict.

ARTICLE 842

Health Insurance Reform and Medicare: Making Medicare Stronger for America's Seniors. *Healthreform.GOV*. September 23, 2009.

Vice President Joe Biden and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius hosts a town hall meeting with seniors in Silver Spring, Md., and releases the report. The report outlines how health insurance reform will help seniors and answers key questions about President Obama's health insurance reform plan. ARTICLE 843

Hispanic , Health Insurance and Health Care Access by Gretchen Livingston. Pew Hispanic Center. September 25, 2009.

Six-in-ten Hispanic adults living in the U.S. who are not citizens or legal permanent residents lack health insurance. The share of uninsured among this group (60%) is much higher than the share of uninsured among Latino adults who are legal permanent residents or citizens (28%), or among the adult population of the U.S. (17%).

ARTICLE 844

Understanding the Effects of Health Care Reform from a National Perspective by Christine Eibner. *RAND Corporation*. 2009.

In January 2009, RAND launched the COMPARE website, a tool to help policymakers understand the possible effects of health care reform. The COMPARE website synthesizes what is currently known about health care in the U.S., provides information on health care policy proposals, and estimates the impact of commonly discussed policies. In this briefing the author presents an overview of COMPARE and shows the estimated effect of four policies: employer mandates, Medicaid and SCHIP expansions, individual mandates, and refundable tax credits.

ARTICLE 845

ECONOMY, BUSINESS, FINANCE & TRADE

Measuring the Effects of the Business Cycle on the Federal Budget: an Update. *Congressional Budget Office*. September 1, 2009.

According to Congressional Budget Office's projections, under current tax and spending policies, the budget deficit would increase from \$459 billion in 2008 to \$1.6 trillion in 2009 and then fall to \$1.4 trillion in 2010 and to \$921 billion in 2011. The size of the deficit is influenced both by policy changes and by the automatic responses of revenues and outlays to economic developments.

ARTICLE 846

The Global Competitiveness Report 2009-2010 by Xavier Sala-i-Martin. *World Economic Forum*. September 8, 2009.

Switzerland tops the overall ranking in The Global Competitiveness Report 2009-2010. The U.S. falls to second position, with weakening in its financial markets and macroeconomic stability. Singapore, Sweden, and Denmark round out the top five. The UK, while remaining very competitive, has continued its fall from last year, moving down one more place this year to 13th, mainly attributable to weakening of its financial markets.

ARTICLE 847

Migration and the Global Recession by Michael Fix et al. Migration Policy Institute. September 2009.

The global financial crisis that began in September 2008 can be viewed as having a deeper and more global effect on the movement of people around the world than any other economic downturn in the post-World War II era of migration, finds the report. It explores how the recession has affected the movement of some of the world's more than 195 million migrants and their remittances in locations around the globe.

ARTICLE 848

Current Economic Conditions: Summary. Federal Reserve District. September 9, 2009.

Commonly known as the Beige Book, this report is published eight times per year. Each Federal Reserve Bank gathers information on current economic conditions in its District through reports from Bank and Branch directors and interviews with key business contacts, economists, market experts, and other sources. The Beige Book summarizes this information by District and sector.

ARTICLE 849

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 10, 2009.

Congress established Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the enterprises) with two key housing missions: (1) provide stability in the secondary market for residential mortgages (also in periods of economic stress) and (2) serve the mortgage credit needs of targeted groups such as low-income borrowers. The report discusses the enterprises' performance in meeting mission requirements, identifies and analyzes options to revise their structures, and discusses key transition issues.

ARTICLE 850

Will the Demand for Assets Fall When the Baby Boomers Retire? Congressional Budget Office. Sept. 2009.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) produces regular reports on the state of the U.S. economy as well as 10-year and long-term projections of the nation's budget and economic outlook. In its analyses, CBO examines a range of developments that could have short- or longer-term consequences for the economy. In the decade to come, one such important development will be the retirement of a substantial proportion of the baby-boom generation—the segment of the nation's population born between 1946 and 1964, whose oldest members turned 62 in 2008. **ARTICLE 851**

Financial Rescue and Reform. Address by President Obama, September 14, 2009.

This speech marks what is commonly seen as the first anniversary of the start of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. In this speech, the President summarizes the course of the crisis and the policy responses to it, and outlines strategies to prevent a recurrence.

<u>The Next Phase of Government Financial Stabilization and Rehabilitation Policies</u>. U.S. Dept of the Treasury. September 14, 2009. **News Release**

The Economic Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: First Quarterly Report. *Council of Economic Advisers*. September 10, 2009.

As part of the unprecedented accountability and transparency provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the Council of Economic Advisers was charged with providing to Congress quarterly reports on the effects of the Recovery Act on overall economic activity, and on employment in particular. In this first report, they provide an assessment of the effects of the Act in its first six months.

ARTICLE 852

Regulatory Perspectives on the Changing Accounting Landscape . Speech by Elizabeth A. Duke, a governor of the U.S. Federal Reserve, September 14, 2009.

The Gloomy Prospects for World Growth working paper by Steven Dunaway. *Council on Foreign Relations.* September 2009.

The author argues that the outlook for recovery and growth in the world economy at this juncture appears rather gloomy. Lasting adjustment in imbalances is taking place only in the U.S., and will continue over the medium term.

ARTICLE 853

Chairman's Mark: America's Healthy Future Act of 2009. U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. September 22, 2009.

After more than a year of preparation, and holding more than 40 health care events in the state, Montana's Senator Max Baucus introduces the America's Healthy Future Act, his landmark health care reform legislation that will lower costs and provide quality, affordable health care coverage for all Montanans and all Americans.

ARTICLE 854

2009-2010 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard. Center for Economic Development. September 2009.

Individuals and families in Arizona, South Carolina and the Delta states of Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas lag behind the rest of the country in key aspects related to their financial stability, including measures of net worth, homeownership and housing affordability, business ownership, health insurance coverage and academic achievement, according to the scorecard.

ARTICLE 855

The Conference Board Task Force on Executive Compensation. The Conference Board. September 21, 2009.

The study shows recommendations for corporate institutions to restore credibility and increase trust in pay practices and oversight. A significant regulatory reform debate has begun, and while government has important responsibilities, the Task Force believes that public companies and institutional shareholders also have a role and should take meaningful action to restore the trust that has been lost during the economic crisis.

ARTICLE 856

INFORMATION, MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

The Internet and Civic Engagement by Aaron Smith et al. Pew Internet & American Life Project. September 2009.

Contrary to the hopes of some advocates, the internet is not changing the socioeconomic character of civic engagement in America, says the report. Just as in offline civic life, the well-to-do and well-educated are more likely than those less well off to participate in online political activities such as emailing a government official, signing an online petition or making a political contribution.

ARTICLE 857

Death by Information overload by Paul Hemp. *The Harvard Business Review*. September 2009.

Current research suggests that the surging volume of available information—and its interruption of people's work—can adversely affect not only personal well-being but also decision making, innovation, and productivity. In one study, for example, people took an average of nearly 25 minutes to return to a work task after an e-mail interruption. That's bad news for both individuals and their organizations.

ARTICLE 858

Press Accuracy Rating Hits Two Decade Low: Public Evaluations of the News Media, 1985-2009. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 12, 2009. Overview

The public's assessment of the accuracy of news stories is now at its lowest level in more than two decades of Pew Research surveys, and Americans' views of media bias and independence now match previous lows. Just 29% of Americans say that news organizations generally get the facts straight, while 63% say that news stories are often inaccurate.

ARTICLE 859

<u>Competition and Commerce in Digital Books</u>. Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary. September 10, 2009.

Understanding Users of Social Networks by Sean Silverthorne. Harvard Business School. September 14, 2009.

If the ongoing social networking revolution has you scratching your head and asking, "Why do people spend time on this?" and "How can my company benefit from the social network revolution?" you've got a lot in common with Harvard Business School professor Mikolaj Jan Piskorski.

ARTICLE 860

Social Networking and Constituent Communications: Member Use of Twitter During a Two-Week Period in the 11th Congress by Matthew Eric Glassman et al. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. September 21, 2009.

During the past 15 years, the development of new electronic technologies have altered the traditional patterns of communication between Members of Congress and constituents. Many Members now use e-mail, official websites, blogs, Youtube channels, and Facebook pages to communicate with their constituents--technologies that were either non-existent or not widely available 15 years ago. Members' use of Twitter can be divided into six categories: position taking, press or web links, district or state activities, official congressional action, personal, and replies. **ARTICLE 861**

The Internet as a Diversion by Aaron Smith. Pew Internet & American Life. September 2009.

Three-quarters of online economic users, those Americans who use the internet to keep up with news about the economic recession or their own personal finances, go online to relax and take their minds off of the recession, according to an April 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

ARTICLE 862

Infomaniac by Linda Tischler. Fast Company. October 2009.

Imagine that data about Medicare costs or the pileup of national debt could be as cool and compelling as an iPhone app or a killer interactive graphic on ESPN.com. Would more people pay attention? Would it change the debate? Would we make better decisions?

ARTICLE 863

MIDDLE EAST

<u>Iraq: Report from the Field</u>. *Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, September 10, 2009. The witness is Christopher R. Hill, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

Outlook for Iraq and U.S. Policy . Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Sept. 10, 2009.

Barriers to the Broad Dissemination of Creative Works in the Arab World by Lowell H. Schwartz et al. *RAND Corporation*. September 21, 2009.

Within the Arab world, many creative works are being produced that could play a role in countering violent extremism. The book examines the substantial barriers to the broad dissemination of these creative works and suggests ways to overcome them.

ARTICLE 864

Escaping the "Graveyard of Empires": a Strategy to Exit Afghanistan by Malou Innocent and Ted Galen Carpenter. *Cato Institute*. September 2009.

Given the nature of the conflict in Afghanistan, a definitive, conventional "victory" is not a realistic option. Denying a sanctuary to terrorists who seek to attack the U.S. does not require Washington to pacify the entire country, eradicate its opium fields, or sustain a long-term military presence in Central Asia, according to the authors. **ARTICLE 865**

The Lengthening List of Iran Sanctions by Greg Bruno. Council on Foreign Relations. September 23, 2009.

Decades of economic and diplomatic sanctions have failed to substantively alter the actions of the Iranian regime, especially regarding its nuclear program. But experts say they remain an important tool to isolate and pressure Iran.

ARTICLE 866

Disappearing Iraq by Jane Arraf. Columbia Journalism Review. Sept/Oct 2009.

Iraq's New Battlefront: the Struggle Over NINEWA. International Crisis Group. Sept. 28, 2009.

The report focuses on the troubled northern governorate, where a conflict between Arabs and Kurds threatens to spiral out of control. While levels of violence have continued to drop in other parts of the country, Ninewa has seen a dramatic spike in attacks in recent months as the two groups compete for power and influence. Caught between them are vulnerable minority groups that have taken the brunt of casualties: scores have already died in large-scale, horrific attacks in the last two months.

ARTICLE 867

Reducing Demand for Poppy Inside and Outside Afghanistan by Vanda Felbab-Brown. *Brookings Institution*. September 25, 2009.

Afghanistan's drug economy needs urgent attention, but it also needs a smart policy. Emphasizing rural development and legal livelihoods while interdicting drug traffickers and reducing demand worldwide are the best options, says the author.

ARTICLE 868

RESEARCH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A Radical Rethink of R & D by Steve Hamm. Business Week. August 27, 2009.

Once upon a time, the U.S. was the world's unrivaled innovation leader. America had the best universities, the strongest corporate research, and a government that invested aggressively in things like space exploration and advanced communications. The result was a steady stream of world-changing innovations, from the transistor at Bell Labs to the Internet at the Defense Dept.

ARTICLE 869

<u>Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States</u>. Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary. September 9, 2009.

<u>Offshore Aquaculture</u>. Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources. September 9, 2009.

Options and Issues for NASA's Human Space Flight Program. Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology. September 15, 2009.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

How Not to Kill the Oceans for Fish by Alex David Rogers. YaleGlobal. September 18, 2009.

The oceans and the seas, life givers to billions of people through sustenance and subsistence, are being quickly depleted of their fish through wasteful fishing methods, fisher overcapacity, and illegal fishing, writes the author. The degradation not only affects the sustainability of an important food source and the age-old industry of fishing, it also harms the largest ecosystem in the world as coral reefs become more fragile and dead zones proliferate due to lack of oxygen. But this decline can be forestalled, Rogers believes.

ARTICLE 870

NOAA: Warmest Global Sea-Surface Temperatures for August and Summer. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*. September 16, 2009.

The world's ocean surface temperature was the warmest for any August on record, and the warmest on record averaged for any June-August (Northern Hemisphere summer/Southern Hemisphere winter) season according to data. The preliminary analysis is based on records dating back to 1880.

ARTICLE 871

World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change. World Bank. September 15, 2009.

According to the report. developing countries can shift to lower-carbon paths while promoting development and reducing poverty, but this depends on financial and technical assistance from high-income countries, says a new World Bank report released today. High-income countries also need to act quickly to reduce their carbon footprints and boost development of alternative energy sources to help tackle the problem of climate change. **ARTICLE 872**

Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. The White House Council on Environmental Quality. September 10, 2009.

The public meetings, roundtables, and website showcased a strong desire and enthusiasm among participants for a National Policy that provides clarity and direction regarding how the Nation will better care for the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. A valuable and wide diversity of interests were represented, and several key themes emerged.

ARTICLE 873

Smaller, Simpler and More Stable: Designing Carbon Markets for Environmental and Financial Integrity. *Friends of the Earth*. September 2009.

The carbon trading system that would be created by the energy bill that passed the House of Representatives in June would be complex, volatile and prone to gaming, concludes the report. It also finds that emerging proposals to regulate derivatives are necessary but not sufficient to ensure the integrity of carbon markets. Instead, the report concludes, if policymakers wish to use a cap-and-trade system as a tool to reduce global warming pollution, they must design the system to be much simpler, smaller, and more stable than current proposals.

ARTICLE 874

Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sept. 22, 2009.

On January 1, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will, for the first time, require large emitters of heat-trapping emissions to begin collecting greenhouse gas data under a new reporting system. This new program will cover approximately 85% of the nation's GHG emissions and apply to roughly 10,000 facilities.

Preamble

More Extreme Weather: Implications for Public Health and Social Justice. National Wildlife Federation. September 18, 2009.

Global warming is making hot days hotter, rainfall and flooding heavier, storms stronger, and droughts more severe. As the Senate prepares to take up clean energy legislation, the National Wildlife Federation, Harvard Medical School, the NAACP, and the Apollo Alliance hosted a Congressional briefing to emphasize the public health and social justice issues that any legislation must address.

ARTICLE 875

Climate Change and the Future Impacts of Storm-Surge Disasters in Developing Countries by Susmita Dasgupta et al. *Center for Global Development*. September 24, 2009.

As the climate changes during the 21st century, larger cyclonic storm surges and growing populations may collide in disasters of unprecedented size. The authors explore the implications of sea-level rise and storm surges for 84 developing countries and 577 of their cyclone-vulnerable coastal cities with populations greater than 100,000.

ARTICLE 876